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Book Review

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Dubois' Lupus Erythematosus

Edited by Daniel J. Wallace, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles; Attending Physician, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles; and Chief Rheumatology Consultant, City of Hope, Duarte, California, and Edmund L. Dubois, MD (Deceased), Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of Southern California School of Medicine, and Director, Collagen Disease Clinic, Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center, Los Angeles. Lea & Febiger, 600 Washington Square, Philadelphia, PA 19106-4198, 1987. 749 pages, \$98.50.

This third edition of Dubois' textbook stands as a tribute to the man who fathered this monumental undertaking and who was working on the third edition at the time of his death. Edmund Dubois devoted his professional career to the care of persons with lupus erythematosus in its many varieties and left a heritage of careful clinical observations to guide physicians at all levels of familiarity with this challenging group of illnesses.

Daniel J. Wallace, co-author of this third edition, and Francisco P. Quismorio, Jr, and James R. Klinenberg, Associate Editors, have, with Dr Dubois, produced a volume vastly improved over the revised second edition of 1976. With relatively few other experts, they have provided a thorough review of the historical, epidemiologic, and classification milestones that brought us to our present less than satisfactory overview of this complex family of illnesses. The current concept of an immunologic basis for lupus in humans and in mice is woven through the chapters on "Autoimmunity" and "Animal Models of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus." Although there is still a chapter on the lupus erythematosus cell test, a procedure widely unavailable in part because of its uneconomical resistance to automation, the more widely available serologic tests that frequently aid in diagnosis and management are thoroughly presented. The chapter on "Lupus Anticoagulant and Other Hemostatic Problems" by Rapaport and Feinstein elucidates an area of possible autoimmunity clearly not limited to systemic lupus erythematosus, but one that casts new light on old clinical observations.

Chapters five and seven in particular will be of interest to the widely varied audience of physicians who treat these patients. Sections provide the physician with material for the patient and directed to the problems of coping with a potentially fatal, chronic illness. The chapter on drug management, as well as the discussion of the use of renal biopsy, provide a comprehensive review but leave the readers, appropriately, to make up their own minds in a particular situation.

This third edition strikes this reviewer as a fitting tribute to the life's work of Edmund Dubois and will serve the clinician and clinical investigator with a plethora of suggestions for management and for future clinical investigations, which I am sure would have pleased the senior author.

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